

25 January 2011

# Press Release

**Release Date:** For Immediate Release

**Subject:** National Weather Service Implements Daily Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service for the Monongahela River at Maxwell Locks and Dam and Point Marion Locks and Dam

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Pittsburgh, PA is now providing daily river forecasts for the Monongahela River at Maxwell Locks and Dam and Point Marion Locks and Dam. Previously forecasts were only provided for these locations during high water.

River forecasts for Maxwell and Point Marion L/Ds will be issued twice daily in the mid to late morning and evening. Five day river forecasts will include observed rainfall for the past 24 hours and forecasted rainfall for the next 48 hours. Using forecasted rainfall will provide residents along the Monongahela River, the navigation industry,, and the Corps of Engineers more lead time of rapidly changing river levels. In addition to the daily forecast service, 90 day probabilistic forecasts for the chance of exceeding certain levels will be available on the National Weather Service's AHPS webpage.

Flood stage for the Monongahela River at Maxwell L/D is 32 feet. At this level there is flooding of low lying areas in West Brownsville. Flood stage for the Monongahela River at Point Marion L/D is 26 feet. At this level basement flooding begins in some homes and businesses in Point Marion.

Graphical forecasts including past stages, 5 day stage forecasts, and 90 day probabilistic forecasts are available for Maxwell L/D at:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=pbz&gage=maxp1&view=1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1>

Graphical forecasts including past stages, 5 day stage forecasts, and 90 day probabilistic forecasts are available for Point Marion L/D at:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=pbz&gage=pmrp1&view=1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1>

River gage information:

All values in feet

Location	Action Stage	Flood Stage	Moderate Flood	Major Flood
Maxwell L/D	23.5	32.0	34.0	36.0
Point Marion L/D	20.0	26.0	27.0	28.0

Flooding Definitions:

**Minor Flooding** (flood stage) indicates minimal or no property damage. However, some public inconvenience is possible.

**Moderate Flooding** indicates the inundation of secondary roads. Transfer to higher elevation may be necessary to save property. Some evacuation may be required.

**Major Flooding** indicates extensive inundation and property damage, usually characterized by the evacuation of people and livestock, and the closure of both primary and secondary roads.

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